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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/091,380

03/04/2002

Winfried Moll

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9968

7590

03/14/2005

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EXAMINER

PRASAD, CHANDRIKA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/091,380

Applicant(s)

MOLL, WINFRIED

Examiner

Chandrika Prasad

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2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/3/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Withdrawal of Allowance***

1. Upon further review and consideration, the allowability of last office action mailed 05/19/04 is withdrawn. A new office action follows. Any inconveniences caused by these actions are deeply regretted.

### ***Specification***

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 11-13, 15-21 and 24-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Akira et al. (JP 10-136541).

Akira (Figures 1-4b) shows an instrument panel 1 for a motor vehicle comprising a plurality of electronic components 3 arranged on a carrier 1a, 1c and/or a plug parts C' with electrical leads 2a connected to the electronic components and/or plug parts wherein the electrical leads are embedded in a layer 1d of plastic foam. The carrier has protruding contact pins 2 to which the leads 2a are materially joined. The pins are arranged transversely to longitudinal extent of the leads. The leads are stretched between contact pins in connectors C. The contact pins are pressed in the carrier. The

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leads are spatially separated from each other and arranged in a common plane. The pins, the connectors and/or the components form a premountable physical unit. The electrical leads are arranged on the carrier and held in spaced-apart relationship by guide elements 2b in a wire harness H. The leads are attached to contact pins on a side of the carrier facing away as well as facing the electronic component. The carrier is made of an electrically insulating material and a layer of plastic foam 1b, 1d disposed over the carrier for insulating the electrical leads 2a.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akira et al. (JP 10-136541) in view of Sugiyama et al. (EP 1 076 341)

Akira shows all the features of this claim as described in Paragraph 4 above except the leads wound around the contact pins. Such a feature is common knowledge and the most common practice in connecting a wire to a terminal in an outlet box. Sugiyama (Figure 5) shows such a feature. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use this technique as taught by Sugiyama to connect the Akira's leads to the pins because this is the simplest and most commonly used method for connecting a wire (lead) to a terminal (contact pin).

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7. Claims 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akira et al. (JP 10-136541).

Akira shows all the features of these claims as described in Paragraph 4 above except the electronic component to be a speedometer or a revolution counter. Akira shows a number of electronic components but does not specify electronic component to be a speedometer or a revolution counter. A speedometer or a revolution counter is the most common electronic component in a motor vehicle. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use the Akira's apparatus for a speedometer or a revolution counter because a speedometer or a revolution counter is the most common electronic component in a motor vehicle.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Misaras (6371548) also shows an apparatus similar to that of Akira's apparatus.

9. Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on 5/3/04 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609(B)(2)(i). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Contact Information***

11. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrika Prasad whose telephone number is (571) 272-2099.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor can be reached at (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax number is (703) 872-9306.



**Chandrika Prasad**  
Primary examiner  
December 8, 2004